

Washington, D.C. — Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today announced \$6,324,099 in federal investment that is headed directly to Ohio's Sixth District. The federal funds are part of the \$555 billion Omnibus spending bill which passed both the House and the Senate and is now headed to the President for his signature.

"I don't think the Ohio River Valley always gets its fair share," Wilson said. "I'm proud to bring more than 6.3 million dollars back home in federal investment. These are meaningful projects that will help bring jobs to the district."

**- \$2,760,000 of that money will help support projects in Athens, Monroe and Washington Counties.**

The spending bill includes \$1,600,000 that will support research and development at Ohio University to create the next generation of heat exchangers for airplanes and spacecraft. Heat exchangers are key components in power machinery that are used to appropriately heat up or cool down equipment. OU will help design and develop new types of carbon foam and heat exchanger designs that use carbon foam, a material that weighs 40% less than traditional materials. The project has the potential of creating new jobs in Ohio's aerospace industry, while increasing the energy-efficiency of aircraft and spacecraft.

"I'm pleased that Ohio's cutting edge aerospace technology can help address the military's aviation needs," Wilson said. "Eventually this research will benefit all of commercial aviation and we can all be proud that it came from Ohio University."

In addition, Wilson and Congressman Zack Space together secured \$784,000 for improvements to Ohio University's airport. The facility brings in more than \$15 million in economic activity to the region. Specifically, this funding will go to enhance the safety and commercial service operations through the construction of an aircraft ramp, build a maintenance vehicle storage facility, and install lighted approach aids. All of these upgrades will make the airport more usable for commercial operators.

"A lot of business people and clients won't come to a rural area if they can't get in and out of the

region with ease,” Wilson said. “We want to provide Southeastern Ohio with all of the tools necessary to aid in economic development and this airport is a key tool. Congressman Space and I are committed to helping the university as it becomes more involved in developing jobs and opportunities in the region.”

Wilson and Space also collaborated to secure \$282,000 for the Economic Development through Entrepreneurship in Appalachia (EDEA) program at Ohio University. This program provides in-depth business and technical assistance to over a thousand businesses throughout Southeastern Ohio.

“I believe small businesses make up the economic backbone of this country,” Wilson said. “Helping entrepreneurs launch businesses and providing them with the assistance they need to grow isn’t just good for small businesses. This will help create needed jobs in our region.”

Specifically, this funding will allow EDEA to expand its program from eight to twenty-nine counties. During 2005 and 2006, the businesses in the eight counties served by the EDEA created over 1200 new jobs and helped retain 300 in the region. The EDEA was also able to assist these businesses in securing \$38 million in new loans, \$48 million in government contracts, \$2.7 million in individual investors, and \$6.5 million in venture capital funding.

Both the Monroe County and Washington County Sherriff’s Departments will also receive funding through this federal spending bill.

Wilson secured \$70,500 for the Monroe County Sherriff’s Department, which needs at least four new pieces of equipment in order to bring its force up to others in the area. The department plans to purchase in-car digital eyewitness video systems and radar units.

Since purchasing in-car camera systems in the mid 1990s, Washington County’s equipment has fallen into a state of disrepair. It often costs more to repair than to replace. Cameras are a vital tool in law enforcement, especially in the fields of evidence collection and officer safety. Wilson secured \$23,500 so that the department’s cameras can be replaced.

“For too long our local law enforcement officers have been making do with too little,” Wilson said. “I’m proud to be a part of a Congress that’s reversing that trend. I know this funding is critical to the safety and well-being of our families, communities and neighborhoods.”

**■ - \$458,387 will help support projects in Jefferson County.**

The spending bill includes \$383,187 for Hospice of the Valley in Steubenville. Hospice of the Valley will use the money to launch a pilot technology program that will computerize medical records, tests and prescriptions. The program aims to be a best- practices leader for all hospice programs in Ohio.

“Electronic medical records are just common sense,” Wilson said. “They save time, money and mistakes. I’m pleased to help bring this next step in healthcare to the Valley.”

In addition, Wilson secured \$75,200 for the Jefferson County Sherriff’s Department. The Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office will use the money for laptop computers for mobile command field units to aid with communication.

**■ - \$1,609,800 will help support projects in Lawrence, Gallia and Meigs Counties.**

The spending bill includes \$735,000 for the Chesapeake By Pass. The funding will help pay for a portion of the property acquisition costs associated with the Phase 2 segment of the State Route 7 – Chesapeake By-Pass. This segment of highway once completed, in conjunction with other Ohio and West Virginia segments that are either planned, under construction, or recently constructed, will form the Northern Outerbelt around the Tri-State Metropolitan Area. Upon its completion the Outerbelt will ease local traffic congestion and provide alternative routing when I-64 is either closed or backed up.

“Completing the Chesapeake By-pass is vital to further economic development in the region,” Wilson said.

In addition, Wilson secured \$492,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers' project at Greenup Lock and Dams and \$166,600 for the Lawrence County Point Industrial Park. The Industrial Park project will involve the development of the needed infrastructure necessary to fully utilize the remainder of The Point Industrial Park, approximately 350 additional acres. This involves the construction of additional access roads, inter-modal loading facilities, river dock facilities, rail spurs, along with water and sewer line extensions. The completion of these improvements will not only allow the development of an ethanol plant to be constructed, but also a biodiesel production facility. It is anticipated that between these two projects, that the private sector will invest an additional \$250 million dollars.

"As many as 105 permanent family-wage jobs could be generated at this site," Wilson said. "Everyone who knows me knows job creation in the district is my top priority."

The Lawrence, Gallia and Meigs County Sherriff's Departments will also receive funding through this federal spending bill.

The Lawrence County Sheriff's Office is set to receive \$75,200. The officers there protect approximately 62,000 people in a 458 square mile radius. It will use the money to purchase lap top computers which can be used in patrol cars, bullet proof vests, cameras, and radios.

The Gallia County Sherriff's Department will use its \$47,000 appropriation to purchase mobile radios, safety vests and computer equipment for its officers who serve approximately 33,000 people.

The Meigs County Sherriff's Department is slated to receive \$94,000, the biggest federal boost of all the Sherriff's departments in the district The Meigs County Sheriff's Office serves 24,000 people in Meigs County. Because of years of successive budget cuts the office has outdated equipment that desperately needs replacement. The office is in need of bullet proof vests, digital cameras for investigations, pagers to contact officers, tasers for officer and community protection, computers for reports, and radar units for road officers.

**□ - \$1,495,912 will help support economic development in Mahoning and Columbiana counties.**

Wilson successfully secured \$984,000 for a carbon sequestration study that will seek to identify major geologic sites in the region in which carbon can be captured and stored in the ground in Ohio. That's a key study to help bring a new coal-to-liquid fuel plant in Wellsville.

"Helping the development of this technology and helping to make this coal-to-liquid plant a reality in Wellsville will mean thousands of jobs for the Ohio River Valley," Wilson said.

In addition, Wilson and Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) together secured \$282,000 for the entrepreneurship development initiative "Salute to Success" in Mahoning County.

The Youngstown - Warren region has had the fewest startups per capita in Ohio and the highest failure rate of new businesses over the last seven years. Minority business startups in the Mahoning Valley are among the fewest in the nation. The "Salute to Success" will support the growth and development of private business through a business entrepreneurship incubator. Incubator clients will have access to a full complement of business and administrative services, networking, mentoring and peer support including business referrals and access to risk capital sources.

"Small business is the engine that makes our economy run," Wilson said. "Small businesses provide jobs and good jobs mean secure families in Ohio. I was so pleased to work with Congressman Ryan on this successful effort."

Finally, Wilson secured \$229,912 for the NewLife Academy of Information Technology in East Liverpool. NewLife provides an intensive training curriculum in Information Technology (IT) for persons from distressed communities. The funding they will receive will help to create IT jobs by expanding NewLife's IT curriculum and increasing the number of class offerings, purchasing equipment and establishing a high school pilot program in Microsoft and Open Source software development.

"Technology means jobs and jobs are my top priority," Wilson said. "I'm so proud to help NewLife expand their good work in the community."

The overall spending bill in which these projects are funded represents a year of work by the Congress.

“We didn’t get everything we wanted, but we stuck to our priorities,” Wilson said. “We reversed the President’s harmful budget cuts and began reinvestment at home. It was disappointing that Congressional Republicans’ blocked so many of our efforts to make all the fiscally responsible investments we need. But, I will keep fighting to use our resources to make our country stronger.”

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